

No Party Candidates

To become a no party candidate in the General Election, an individual must submit his or her petition signatures with the appropriate filing officer by August 1, 2016.

Only recognized parties in West Virginia may nominate candidates for the General Election in the Primary Election or by convention. Citizens who want to run independently or under the banner of a minor party must petition the voters within the state by gathering signatures to get on the General Election ballot. The petition process assures that a candidate or party has support among the voters before being placed on the ballot. An individual who was a candidate in the primary election may not use the nominating petition process to become a candidate on the general election ballot.

West Virginia Code [§3-5-23](#) and [§3-5-24](#)

Rules for Collecting Nominating Petitions

Your first step

Before you start collecting signatures, you must obtain official credentials from the county clerk (for statewide elections) or town or city recorder (for municipal elections) - these credentials will authorize you to collect signatures from voters registered in that jurisdiction. You must show your credentials to each voter you canvass.

What forms should I use?

You may only collect petition signatures on forms provided by the Secretary of State. A completed version of the petition heading should be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval before any petitions are circulated. All copies of the petition form should be reproduced in identical format. You may find all the forms necessary for collecting signatures on our [Candidate Filing Forms page](#) under the heading "Petitions and Waivers."

Who can collect signatures?

In 2002, the legislature adopted a law that no longer requires those collecting signatures to be residents of West Virginia.

Collecting signatures for more than one candidate

A group of citizens petitioning under the name of a minor party may list multiple candidates on the same petition - a valid signature will be counted for each candidate listed, as long as the voter signing resides in the division where the candidate is seeking nomination.

Collecting signatures in multiple counties

You must use separate petition pages for each county in which you collect signatures, and the county name should be entered on the petition. This allows the completed petitions to be returned to the proper county for verification.

How many signatures do I need for my name to be on the General Election ballot?

The completed petitions must contain valid signatures of at least one percent of the entire amount of votes cast for the specific office in the previous election for that office; but cannot be less than twenty-five. View petition signature requirements by office for the 2016 Election on the chart [below](#).

Where do I file my nominating petitions and certificate of announcement?

Secretary of State: candidates for Federal offices, State Senate and House of Delegates, all judicial offices except magistrate, and those running for an office in more than one county.

County Clerk: candidates for an office which is entirely within one county.

Municipal Recorder: candidates for a municipal office.

Deadline for filing signatures

The completed petitions must be filed no later than August 1 preceding the General Election.

Filing Fees

Visit the [2016 Offices on the Ballot](#) page for filing fees.

Signature verification

The county clerks will verify the number of valid signatures you collect within their counties.

2016 Petition Signature Requirements

Office	District	Signature Total
President		6706
US Senate		6602
US House of Representatives	1	1447
	2	1543
	3	1404
Governor		6645
Secretary of State		6385
Auditor		6196
Treasurer		6285
Commissioner of Agriculture		6137
Attorney General		6436
Supreme Court of Appeals		7164
State Senate	1	395
	2	295
	3	335
	4	398
	5	281
	6	350
	7	260
	8	365
	9	345
	10	269
	11	376
	12	292
	13	368
	14	277
	15	357
	16	386
	17	284
House of Delegates	1	93
	2	48
	3	116
	4	91
	5	42
	6	37
	7	37
	8	47
	9	46
	10	143
	11	43
	12	50
	13	91
	14	44
	15	53
	16	108
	17	85
	18	46

19	81
20	40
21	33
22	71
23	48
24	45
25	41
26	24
27	156
28	95
29	49
30	52
31	45
32	122
33	45
34	43
35	199
36	137
37	38
38	44
39	48
40	43
41	51
42	94
43	97
44	41
45	41
46	52
47	51
48	174
49	48
50	147
51	187
52	37
53	40
54	39
55	49
56	37
57	37
58	45
59	47
60	40
61	36
62	35
63	35
64	27
65	42
66	40
67	51